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Ministry of Forests
Chief Forester's Office

KISPIOX ALLOWABLE ANNUAL CUT REDUCED

VICTORIA – The new allowable annual cut for the Kispiox timber supply area will be reduced to 977,000 cubic metres, effective Jan. 1, 2003, British Columbia chief forester Larry Pedersen announced today.

"This is lower than the previous allowable annual cut of 1,092,611 cubic metres set in 1996," Pedersen said. "Several factors influenced timber supply, including a smaller land base available for harvesting, management considerations for other forest values, forest health issues in managed stands, and some uncertainty about the amount of timber and whether it is economic to harvest it. The reduction is a necessary step in the gradual transition to lower projected longer-term harvest levels for the timber supply area."

The new allowable annual cut is greater than the initial harvest level forecast in the analysis released earlier this year. The rationale for the decision cites several reasons, including new loss projections from balsam bark beetle and tomentosus root disease. The analysis also projected a long-term harvest level of about 430,000 cubic metres a year, but this level may underestimate long-term timber supply if results of provincial research indicating higher productivity from second-growth forests apply to the Kispiox timber supply area.

The allowable annual cut released today reflects management for the goals of the Kispiox land and resource management plan, including special management to maintain values such as water quality and wildlife habitat, and the creation of six new protected areas. The Kispiox timber supply area is made up of about 1.2 million hectares in northwestern British Columbia and includes the communities of New Hazelton, Hazelton, South Hazelton, Kitwanga, Cedarvale, Kispiox, Gitsegukla, Gitwangak and Gitanyow.

If the 977,000 cubic metres were fully harvested and processed each year, this would support about 540 direct full-time jobs and 160 indirect full-time jobs in the timber supply area, and another 1,805 direct and indirect full-time jobs across British Columbia. This would generate about $20.8 million in annual employment income in the timber supply area and another $32.8 million across the province.

The Kispiox decision is the 35th of 37 allowable annual cut determinations for timber supply areas in the second provincewide timber supply review. The timber supply review is a detailed and comprehensive process that ensures harvest rates sustain ecological values like biodiversity and wildlife, as well as timber, jobs and economic benefits.

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A copy of the chief forester's allowable annual cut determination for the Kispiox timber supply area and the summary of public input on the Kispiox timber supply review are available on the Ministry of Forests Web site at www.for.gov.bc.ca/tsb or from the following Forest Service offices:

- Prince Rupert forest region at 250-847-7500
- Kispiox forest district at 250-842-7600

For more information on the timber supply review, visit www.for.gov.bc.ca/tsb on the Internet.

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Visit the province's Web site at http://www.gov.bc.ca/ for online information and services.

Media contact:

Lisa Hanna
Kispiox forest district
Ministry of Forests
250 842-7603

Melanie Boyce
Timber Supply Branch
Ministry of Forests
250 953-4134